



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,687	10/16/2001	Craig R. White	10011785-1	3774

  

EXAMINER	
ALI, MOHAMED HATEM	

  

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3692	

  

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/01/2007	PAPER

7590 11/01/2007  
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,687

Applicant(s)

WHITE, CRAIG R.

Examiner

Mohamed H. Ali

Art Unit

3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a **Final Action** on merits in response to the communication received on 9/18/2007.

### *Acknowledgement*

2. The claims 9-20 are cancelled. The claims 1,3,5,7 and 21-26 are amended. As such claims 1-8 and 21-26 are pending.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (US 6,385,675 B1) in view of Lamming et al (US 2003/0050963 A1)

As per claims 1 and 4, Yamaguchi discloses an electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from a printer (100), having an owner and a user the system comprising:

a billing manger (see col.2, 101H; via accounting program and operations for costing and inherently billing system), which manages billing policies for the printer

Art Unit: 3692

device to determine a cost of each operation performed on the printer device (Col.2, L 60-62; via accounting program inherently processing cost of each operation);

a billing system (**101 I**; via controller controlling the accounting operations), which accumulates information on usage of the printer device by the user, generates an accounting of usage based on the accumulated information and associates the accounting of usage with a predetermined unit of usage (see col. 2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3); and

at least one database, which stores account information of the user of the printer device in terms of the predetermined unit of usage (see col. L 47-48);

wherein the billing system periodically updates the account information of the user of the printer device and issues an accounting of costs to the user (see col. 2, L 27-35 and col.3, L 4-8), and

wherein the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user (see col.3, lines 9-28; via accounting operation based on parameters as name of the user [owner's name could get discounted or gained or credited] by changing parameters with specific program and by carrying out special operation for that purpose inherent and implied to the programming system with predetermined unit of usage like other users [see col. 2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3]).

**As per claims 2**, Yamaguchi discloses that the predetermined unit of usage is a token (see col.1, L 35-55, via page unit as token and plurality of operational mode as event and based on command from the host computer make the total charge for the

Art Unit: 3692

printing to the host computer through a circuit 100F for managing and logging each job as an account).

**As per claim 3**, Yamaguchi discloses that the billing system further accumulates information on usage of the printer device by the owner of the printer device, and only bills the owner of the printer device for net usage of the printer device (see col.5, lines 10-17; via the host computer **102** uses the program software to carry out the specified functions [operator can change the functions if desired] for billing the owner as estimated for the net usage).

**As per claims 5 and 6**, Yamaguchi discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, but fails to explicitly disclose a mobile access unit coupled to the billing manager and selected from the group consisting of a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a mobile computer.

However, Lamming et al discloses the concept of having a mobile access unit (called mobile computing device coupled with inherent and implied programming function of printing indication for the content to the printer device) to the billing manager and selected from a group including mobile phone, PDA, portable computers (see para 0048)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing system of Yamaguchi to include the procedure of printing online by mobile access unit as taught by Lamming in order to bridge wireless communication between a document server and an output device such as a Printer from any place for printing as inherent program.

**As per claim 7**, Yamaguchi discloses that a configuration unit coupled to the billing policy database for updating and configuring billing policies for new users of the printer device (see col.2, L 65-67 host computers-102 may be new users to be configured by the controller 101 I).

**As per claims 8 and 26**, Yamaguchi teaches all elements of the claimed invention, but fails to explicitly disclose the billing system is selected from a back office billing system and Internet Settlement Model.

However Lamming et al disclose the concept of having a billing system from a back office system and Internet Settlement Model (see para 0150 and 0038 for WAN and mechanism for centralized services with accounting and billing).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing System of Yamaguchi to include the billing and accounting system done in back office system with the centralized office computer server back up or through Internet Settlement Model from WAN network facility as taught by Lamming et al in order to facilitate wireless transmission.

**As per claims 21, 22, 23 and 24**, Yamaguchi discloses the system comprising plurality of printer devices connected over a network (see col. 2, L15-30),

the billing manager (see 101 I) is coupled to each printer device for determining the amount of printer usage and associating a predetermined amount of token values with the amount of printer usage (see col.2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3); and

a billing policies database, which includes billing policies for the printer devices such that the each printer device uses at least one billing policy to determine a cost of each operation, performed on the printer (see col.2, L 27-35 and col.3, L 4-8 and inherent programmed function for cost of each operation).

However Yamaguchi fails to explicitly disclose that each printer device can receive the content from a mobile access unit and print the content in response to an authorization process.

Lamming et al discloses the concept of having each printer device receiving content from a mobile access unit to print the content in response to an authorization (see para 0057, 0058 and 0105).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing System of Yamaguchi to include the requirement of receiving the content from the mobile unit as taught by Lamming et al in order to facilitate the transfer of contents from the mobile access unit to the printing device over wireless communication channel to improve efficiency and easy working situation with printing devices.

**As per claim 25**, Yamaguchi discloses that a user configuration unit coupled to the billing policies database for updating and configuring billing policies for new users of the printer devices (see col.2, L 65-67 host computers-102 may be new users to be configured by the controller 101 I).

***Response to Arguments***

5. **Applicants'** arguments filed on 9/18/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in view of the new ground of rejection.

**Applicants** argue, "the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user."

**The Examiner** respectfully disagrees. As to the arguments, the citation of the relevant prior art has been updated in the body of the rejection to further clarify the examiners position (see col.3, lines 9-28; via accounting operation based on parameters as name of the user [owner's name could get discounted or gained or credited] by changing parameters with specific program and by carrying out special operation for that purpose inherent and implied to the programming system with predetermined unit of usage like other users [see col. 2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3]).

***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within



TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed H. Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-3021. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.00 to 6.00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on 571-272-6702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 09/977,687

Page 9

Art Unit: 3692

Mohamed H Ali  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3693

MA

Harish Dass  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3692

*Harish TDm*  
10/29/07